



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 240, September 20, 2024

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Ohio-Penn DX Bulletin (OPDX)

Edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. Although OPDX is no longer published as a weekly bulletin, Tedd still sends DX news emails.

We will occasionally publish some of them.

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

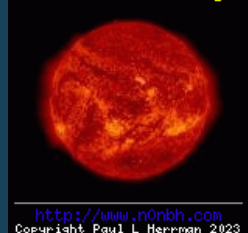
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](http://SpaceWeather.com), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

21 Sep 2024 1719 GMT  
SFI: 154 SN: 113  
A-Index: 7  
K-Index: 1  
X-Ray: C1.1  
304A: 147.6 @ SEM  
Ptn Flx: 543  
Elc Flx: 12000  
Aurora: 1/n=1.99  
Mag (Bz): 0.8  
Solar Wind: 371.1  
Geomag Field VR QUIET  
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1  
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>  
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## DX News

**3D2/R, ROTUMA I.** Callsigns **3D22** (Three Delta Twenty-two) and **3D2V** will be used by the Rebel DX Group during their upcoming activity from Rotuma. SuperFox keys valid from September 20th to October 30th (<https://ncdxf.org/pages/sfkey.html>) have been issued for both callsigns. FT8 will be prioritized ("CW and SSB less important") and plans are to use both FT8 SuperFox and multistream MSHV on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10m (same bands but different frequencies); on 160-30m only multistream MSHV will be used. The Rebels plan to set sail for Rotuma on **September 24th or 25th**, with the voyage taking around 48 hours. Bookmark <https://www.facebook.com/rebeldxgroup> for

updates. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1742 September 21, 2024] (0920-1101)

**4L, GEORGIA.** Stephane, F4JZW, signs **4L/F4JZW** until **September 30th** on 80-6m with 10W and a wire. QSL via LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2421 August 28, 2024] (0830-1004)

**5B, CYPRUS.** Milan remains active as **5B/S55DX** from Mount Olympus (SOTA. CY-001) until **September 21st**. QSL via [S55DX](#).

-[DXNL # 2424 September 18, 2024] (0920-0927)

**5H, TANZANIA.** Vlad, OK2WX will be active as **5H1WX** from Mafia Island (AF-054), Tanzania from **September 18th to October 6th**. He will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80-10 meters. Detailed QSL policy as well as other information on <https://www.mdxsupport/5h1wx/>. QSL via [I8KHC](#).

-[425DXN # 1733 July 20, 2024] (0913-1011)

**5W, SAMOA.** Barry, KD6XU, is QRV as **5WØBP** until **September 23rd**. Activity is on 20 and 17 meters using CW and FT8 from various POTA locations. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-0927)

**9J, ZAMBIA.** Pista, HA5AO will be active from the area of the Victoria Falls in Zambia from September 14th to 23rd on 6m - 80m (CW/SSB/FT8) using the callsign **9J2AO**. QSL via [HA5AO](#) OQRS

-[DXNL # 2423 September 11, 2024] (0913-0927)

**9K, KUWAIT.** Special callsign **9K9KSA** marks their neighbor's Saudi National Day from **September 19th to 25th**. QSL via qrz.com.

-[DXNL # 2424 September 18, 2024] (0920-0927)

**A2, BOTSWANA.** Pista, HA5AO will be QRV as **A25AO** from Chobe National Park from **September 24th to October 4th**. QSL to [HA5AO](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-1004)

**A4, OMAN.** Special event station **A43KSA** is QRV until **September 26th** as part of Saudi Arabia National Day. QSL direct.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-0927)

**A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.** Radio amateurs from UAE will join the celebrations in Saudi Arabia (see below) with the special callsign A6ØARS from **September 17th to 23rd**.

**A6ØARS** Op. EARS Station QSL: [EA7FTR](#)

**A6ØARS/Ø** Op. A61Y QSL: [EA7FTR](#)

**A6ØARS/1** Op. A61M QSL: [A61BK](#)

**A6ØARS/2** Op. A61Q QSL: [EA7FTR](#)

**A6ØARS/3** Op. A61FK QSL: [A61BK](#)

**A6ØARS/4** Op. A61BK QSL: [A61BK](#)

**A6ØARS/5** Op. A61DD QSL: [EA7FTR](#)

**A6ØARS/6** Op. A61QQ QSL: [A61BK](#)

**A6ØARS/7** Op. A61AY QSL: [A61AY](#)

**A6ØARS/8** Op. A65GC QSL: [A65GC](#)

**A6ØARS/9** Op. A61ZX QSL: [IZ8CLM](#)

**A6ØARS/1Ø** Op. A65BR QSL: [A65BR](#)

**A6ØARS/11** Op. A61NN QSL: [EA7FTR](#)

**A6ØARS/12** Op. A65GD QSL: [A65GD](#)

**A6ØARS/13** Op. A65GJ QSL: [A65GJ](#)

**A6ØARS/14** Op. A61FJ QSL: [LZ1YE](#)

**A6ØARS/15** Op. A61DI QSL: [EA7FTR](#)

**A6ØARS/16** Op. A61BR QSL: [EA5ZD](#)

**A6ØARS/17** Op. A65AA QSL: [A65AA](#)

**A6ØARS/18** Op. A65KA QSL: [A65KA](#)

**A6ØARS/19** Op. A65PX QSL: Direct via [K3YR](#); QRZ; EQSL

**A6ØARS/2Ø** Op. A65GL QSL: [EA7FTR](#)  
 -[DXNL # 2423 September 11, 2024] (0913-0927)

**CE, CHILE.** Members of Radioclub El Trauko (CE7DE), based on Chiloe Island (SA-018), will be operating special callsigns **3G7CW** (CW) and **3G7RLN** (other modes) **throughout September**, with a focus on the 17th. This was the day in 1898 when Ramon Luis Norero put a wireless telegraph system into operation across the Chacao Channel between Chiloe and mainland Chile. ClubLog's Live Stream has been enabled for both callsigns. QSLs direct to [CE7DE](#).  
 -[425DXN # 1740 September 7, 2024] (0906-0927)

**DL, GERMANY.** Members of DARC's Ortsverband Greifswald (DLØHGW) will be active as **DL25ØCDF** from **August 1st to September 30th**. The special callsign marks the 250th anniversary since the birth of the painter Caspar David Friedrich, an icon of the German Romantic movement. A certificate will be available, see <https://dl0hgw.darc.de/dl250cdf.htm> for information. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau, eQSL and LoTW.  
 -[425DXN # 1733 July 20, 2024] (0726-0927)

**DU, PHILIPPINES.** Lucy, AB3MY will be active as **DU1/AB3MY** from Legazpi on Luzon Island (OC-042), Philippines on **September 19th-24th**. She will operate SSB and possibly some FT8 on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. Her activity is to honor her late father, Percy Tence (PY2PD), who lived in Brazil but was born in the Philippines, and died in a road traffic accident in 2001. QSL via [AB3MY](#).  
 -[425DXN # 1741 September 14, 2024] (0913-0927)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of September 19, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. VKØH	Heard Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF September 20, 2024] (0920-1011)

**E6, NIUE.** Fred, DH5FS is QRV as **E6FS** from Kaliki Lodge **until September 30th**. Activity is holiday style on various HF bands. QSL to [DH5FS](#).  
 -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-1004)

**EA, SPAIN.** Special callsigns **EG3AMCUP** (from **September 15th to October 14th**) and **AO3AMCUP** (from **October 15th to October 28th**) will be used by members of URE's Unio de Radioaficionats de Barcelona i Baix Llobregat (EA3MM) during the 37th America's Cup. A certificate will be available, see <https://www.ure.es/diploma-cq-america-cup-2024/> for information. QSL via [EA3MM](#), LoTW, eQSL and QRZ Logbook.  
 -[425DXN # 1742 September 21, 2024] (0920-1101)

**EA, SPAIN.** Special event station **EG2AMCUP** is QRV **until October 29th** during the 37th America's Cup being held in Barcelona. QSL via [EA3MM](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.  
 -[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-1101)

**F, FRANCE.** Special callsign **TM45CDXC** draws attention to the 45th convention of the Clipperton DX Club in Montceau les Mines (Dept. 71) **until September 21st**. QSL via [F5CWU](#), OQRS (<http://www.f5cwu.net/oqrs/>).  
 -[DXNL # 2424 September 18, 2024] (0920-0927)

**F, FRANCE.** Radioclub F6KJS de Montceau les Mines (dpt 71, Saone et Loire) will remember the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Genelard with the special callsign **TM44LG** from **September 15th through 29th**. QSL via Bureau.  
 -[DXNL # 2423 September 11, 2024] (0913-1004)

**F, FRANCE.** To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Wingle during WWII (September 2, 1944), the local radio club (F4KLR) will be active as **TM8ØLW** on **August 31st, September 2nd and for another 13 days until November 9th**. All SSB and CW QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau and eQSL; FT8 QSOs will be confirmed via eQSL.  
-[425DXN # 1738 August 24, 2024] (0830-1108)

**F, FRANCE.** The radio club F4KIR from Saint Malo uses the callsigns **TM8ØCAL** (during August) and **TM8ØLCA** (during September) to commemorate their city's liberation 80 years ago. QSL via [F5BNJ](#).  
-[DXNL # 2419 August 14, 2024] (0816-0927)

**FO/M, MARQUESAS IS.** Paula, NX1P is QRV as **FO/NX1P** until October 1st. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL to [NX1P](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 September 5, 2024] (0906-1004)

**GM, SCOTLAND.** Members of the Guisborough and District Amateur Radio Club will be QRV as **MSØNYM** from the Isle of Lewis (EU-010) from **September 22nd to 26th**. QSL direct to [GØUOK](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-0927)

**HBØ, LIECHTENSTEIN.** Ops Roman and Leo will be active as **HBØ/DL3TU** and **HBØ/DL2COM** respectively from the **end of September to the beginning of October** on CW. QSL via [DL3TU](#) and [DL2COM](#) respectively.  
-[DXNL # 2424 September 18, 2024] (0920-1011)

**HH, HAITI.** Special callsign **4V1SAVANNAH** will be used by the Radio Club d'Haiti to commemorate the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Savannah from **September 16th to October 20th**. In 1779, more than 500 volunteers from Saint-Domingue (the French colony which later became Haiti), fought alongside American colonial troops against the British Army during the siege of Savannah, an encounter of the American War of Independence. QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog. QSL via [N2OO](#).  
-[425DXN # 1740 September 7, 2024] (0913-1018)

**HL, SOUTH KOREA.** Operators Jong **DS5ACV/p**, Terry **DS5DNO/p**, Hoya **DS5MNO/p** and Cho **HL5JYS/p** will be active from Isu Island (AS-081), WWL PM44ix starting around **0100 UTC on September 21st until around 0700 UTC on September 22nd** (30 hours). They will operate CW, FT8 and some SSB on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and Club Log. QSL for all callsigns via [DS5DNO](#).  
-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0920-0927)

**HZ, SAUDI ARABIA.** Saudi Amateur Radio Society (HZ1SAR) will use special callsigns **HZ94ND**, **7Z94ND** and **8Z94ND** to celebrate Saudi National Day on **September 5th-23rd**. Based on the number of lunar years, Saudi National Day commemorates the renaming of the Kingdom of Nejd and Hejaz to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (September 23, 1932). QSOs will be uploaded to ClubLog.  
National societies from the Gulf Cooperation Council's neighboring countries are expected to join the celebrations and be active around September 23, including:

**A91ARS**, Bahrain Amateur Radio Society,  
**9K9KSA**, Kuwait Amateur Radio Society,  
**A43KSA**, Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society,  
**A6ØARS**, Emirates Amateur Radio Society,

-[425DXN # 1740 September 7, 2024] (0906-0927)

**ISØ, SARDINIA.** Luca, IK5AEQ will be QRV as **ISØ/IK5AEQ** on **September 26th-28th** from POTA sites in the rare province of Oristano on mainland Sardinia (EU-024). Then from **September 29th to October 6th** he will be active as **IMØ/IK5AEQ** from San Pietro Island (EU-165). He will operate SSB, RTTY and FT modes on 40-2 meters. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [IK5AEQ](#).  
-[425DXN # 1742 September 21, 2024] (0920-1011)

**JA, JAPAN.** Watch for **JA4GXS/4** and **JN4JXL/4** to activate Kasado Island (AS-117) on **September 21st** on 40-17m (CW, SSB, FT8/4). QSL via [JA4GXS](#) and [JN4JXL](#) respectively.  
-[DXNL # 2424 September 18, 2024] (0920-0927)



**OE, AUSTRIA.** Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (<https://rrdxa.org/>), Tom, OE4EIE is active as **OE4RRDXA** from **July 1st to September 30th**. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog; paper QSL cards will not be available.  
-[425DXN # 1731 July 6, 2024] (0705-0927)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special event station **OE5ØLOW** is QRV **during September** to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the G-QRP Club. QSL direct to [OE7AFT](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 32 August 29, 2024] (0830-0927)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** The special event stations **OE2XXM** and **OE5XXM** will be active **during September** around the 38th International amateur radio meeting in Gosau. QSL via bureau.  
-[DXNL # 2414 July 10, 2024] (0830-0927)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special callsign **OE7ØVIE** marks the 70th anniversary of Vienna International Airport (IATA code VIE) from **June 21st to September 30th**. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), LoTW in due course, or via [OE6VIE](#).  
-[425DXN # 1729 June 22, 2024] (0621-0927)

**OZ, DENMARK.** Dieter, DF2SD is active holiday style as **OV9R** from Fano Island (EU-125) **until September 28th**. QSL via LoTW, eQSL and [ClubLog's OQRS](#) for paper cards.  
-[425DXN # 1742 September 21, 2024] (0920-1004)

**PA, NETHERLANDS.** Special callsign **PH8ØLIB** will be in use from various locations from **September 11th until November 10th** to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of southern Netherlands in the autumn of 1944. Activity will be on 80-10 meters SSB, CW and digital modes. See <https://www.grz.com/db/PH80LIB> for detailed information. QSL via the bureau.  
-[425DXN # 1740 September 7, 2024] (0906-1108)

**SP, POLAND.** Special callsigns **SN1ØØP**, **SN1ØØL**, **SN1ØØN**, **SN1ØØPLN** and **SN1ØØBP** will be used from **September 1st to December 31st** for the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Bank Polski SA and the introduction of the zloty (PLN), Poland's official currency. The activity is organized by the Polish Amateur Radio Association. A certificate will be available, see <https://www.grz.com/db/SN100PLN> for the details. QSL via the bureau.  
-[425DXN # 1740 September 7, 2024] (0906-0927)

**SV, GREECE.** Dirk, ON5CT will be active as **SV8/ON5CT** from Samos Island (EU-049) **until October 6th**. He operates SSB, FT8 and RTTY on 80-6 meters. Paper QSLs will not be available, but QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW, eQSL and ClubLog.  
-[425DXN # 1741 September 14, 2024] (0913-1011)

**SV, GREECE.** The Salamis Radio Amateurs Group will be active as **SX8AS** on **September 16th-30th** from Salamina Island (EU-075). QSL via LoTW and ClubLog.  
-[425DXN # 1740 September 7, 2024] (0913-1004)

**T5, SOMALIA.** The **6Ø3T** team arrived in Hargeisa, Somaliland, on September 11th. On September 13th, they were "waiting for the customs clearance of the equipment, which as expected will take a few days. For this reason, no exact dates have been communicated regarding our on-air operation". If all goes well, they should be ready for the installation of the first of five stations in the coming days. Follow <https://www.facebook.com/Dxexplorernet> for updates. Full upload to LoTW 12 months after the DXpedition. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to [IV3DSH](#).  
-[425DXN # 1741 September 14, 2024] (0913-1004)

**TZ, MALI.** Jeff, **TZ4AM** is QRV **until September 30th**. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using mostly CW and SSB. QSL via [KX4R](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-1004)

**V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS.** Once again John, W5JON will be active as **V47JA** from St. Kitts (NA-104) from **September 18th to October 1st**. He will operate SSB and FT8 on the 160-6 meters. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [W5JON](#).  
-[425DXN # 1741 September 14, 2024] (0913-1004)

**V5, NAMIBIA.** Gunter, DK2WH is QRV as **V51WH** from Omaruru **until November 12th**. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using SSB, FT8, and possibly CW. He will be active as **V55Y** in various contests. QSL to [DK2WH](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 35 September 19, 2024] (0920-1115)

**VE, CANADA.** Chris, VO1CH will be active again as **VO2VC** from Zone 2 in Labrador from **September 26th to October 3rd**, including an entry in the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [VO1CH](#).

-[425DXN # 1741 September 14, 2024] (0920-1004)

**VK, AUSTRALIA.** From **September 14th to 29th**, **VI7POL** will be on air on the occasion of the 7th National Police Week. QSL via [VK5PAS](#), eQSL or LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2423 September 11, 2024] (0913-1004)

**VU, INDIA.** San, VU2TT will be QRV in several contests with special call sign **AT5T** from **September 7th to November 28th**. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 33 September 5, 2024] (0906-0927)

**VU, INDIA.** Special event station **AT78I** is QRV **until November 13th** to celebrate 78 years of independence for India. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via [VU2JOS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 31 August 22, 2024] (0823-1115)

**XT, BURKINA FASO.** Harald, DF2WO will be active again as **XT2AW** from Burkina Faso from **September 8th to 22nd**. He plans to operate SSB and FT4 on 80-10 meters and QO-100. QSL via [MØOXO's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

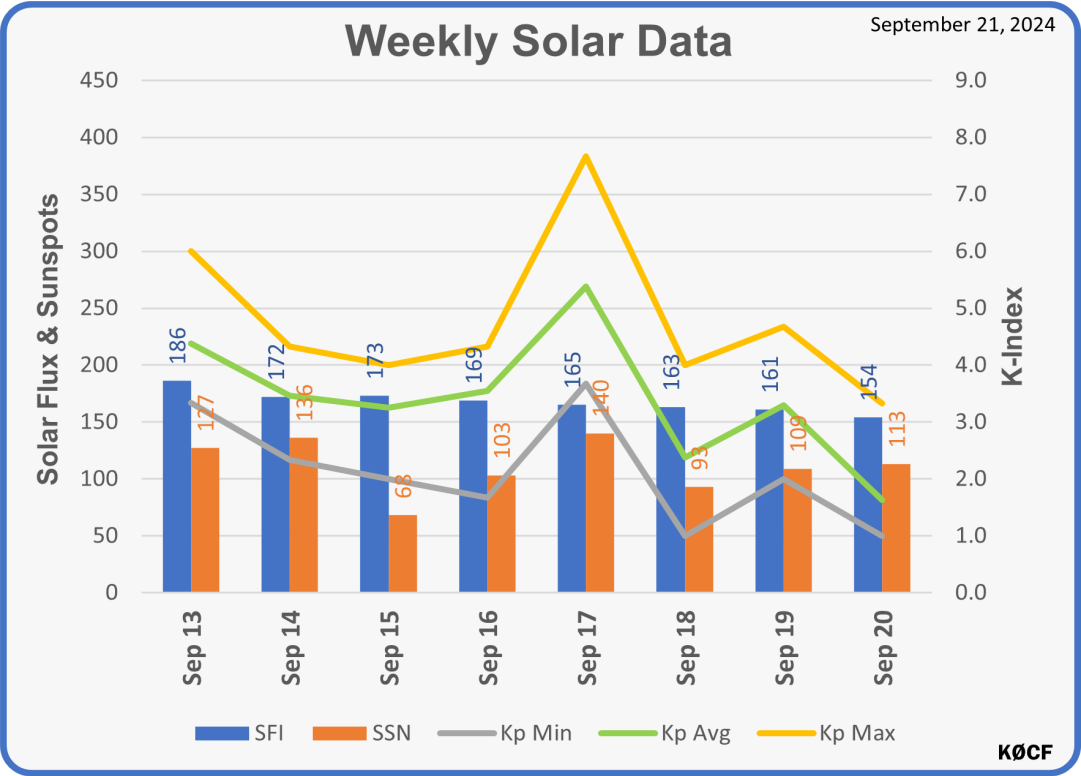
-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-0927)

**ZD9, TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH I.** Lance, W7GJ will be active as **ZD9GJ** from Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) **approximately** from **September 12th to October 1st**. This will be primarily a 6m EME DXpedition, using Q65-60A in the "Q65 Pileup" mode. See <https://www.bigskyspaces.com/w7gj/> for detailed information and instructions. When not "aimed up at the moon", he may operate SSB or FT8 on 6m TEP. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [W7GJ](#).

-[425DXN # 1739 August 31, 2024] (0906-1004)

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## Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

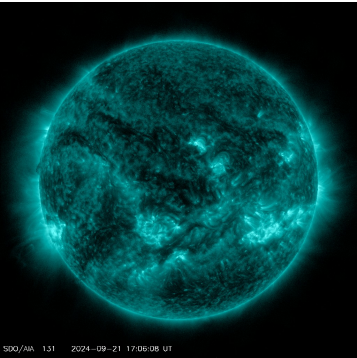
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



### Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, September 13th through yesterday, September 20th.

The average solar flux was 165, down 44 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 186 on Friday, September 13th, followed by a low of 154 on September 20th.

The average sunspot count was 109, down by 60 from last week, peaking at 140 on Tuesday, September 17th after a weekly low of 68 on September 15th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 4.8 with a maximum of 7.7 on Tuesday, September 17th, resulting in strong geomagnetic storm conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 3.3 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since September 14th has been quiet with only 2 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 4.5 event on Saturday, September 14th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, September 14th through 1222 UTC, September 21st.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Sep 14	1529	X 4.5
2	Sep 14	0741	M 3.0

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Sep 21	30%	5%	155
Sep 22	30%	5%	150
Sep 23	30%	5%	150

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on September 16, 2024).

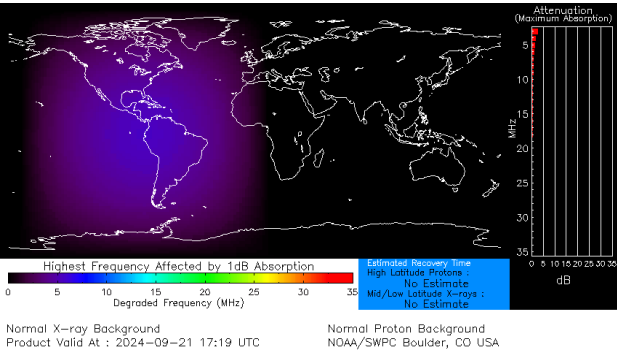
Date	Flux	Kp
Sep 21	165	2
Sep 22	170	2
Sep 23	225	2
Sep 24	225	2

Date	Flux	Kp
Sep 25	230	2
Sep 26	235	5
Sep 27	230	5
Sep 28	225	4

Date	Flux	Kp
Sep 29	240	3
Sep 30	240	2
Oct 1	240	2
Oct 2	240	2

Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:

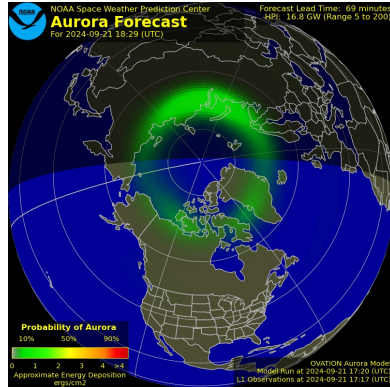


The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio



propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



## Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

## Auroras Love Equinoxes

The northern autumnal equinox is only one day away. That's good news for sky watchers because auroras love equinoxes. Researchers call it the "[Russell-McPherron effect](#)." At this time of year, [cracks](#) form in Earth's magnetic field, opening the door for solar storms. Even a weak stream of solar wind or a glancing blow from a CME can spark a good display. Happy autumn!

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## Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

## A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux

does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

## Contest Calendar

### Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

### Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	Sep 21	1200Z	Sep 22	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>Iowa QSO Party</b>	Sep 21	1400Z	Sep 22	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Texas QSO Party	Sep 21	1400Z	Sep 22	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Sep 22	1400Z	Sep 22	2000Z	
Wisconsin Parks on the Air	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 21	2300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New Jersey QSO Party	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 22	0359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New Hampshire QSO Party	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 21	2200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Sep 22	1600Z	Sep 22	2200Z	
Washington State Salmon Run	Sep 21	1600Z	Sep 22	0700Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Sep 22	1600Z	Sep 22	2400Z	
<b>CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY</b>	Sep 28	0000Z	Sep 29	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Maine QSO Party	Sep 28	1200Z	Sep 29	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	Oct 5	0600Z	Oct 6	0600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
California QSO Party	Oct 5	1600Z	Oct 6	2200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Makrothen RTTY Contest	Oct 12	0000Z	Oct 13	1559Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Nevada QSO Party	Oct 12	0300Z	Oct 13	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Oceania DX Contest, CW	Oct 12	0600Z	Oct 13	0600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Oct 12	1200Z	Oct 13	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Arizona QSO Party	Oct 12	1500Z	Oct 13	0500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Pennsylvania QSO Party	Oct 12	1600Z	Oct 13	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Oct 13	1300Z	Oct 13	2200Z	
South Dakota QSO Party	Oct 12	1800Z	Oct 13	1800Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	Oct 19	0001Z	Oct 20	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
New York QSO Party	Oct 19	1400Z	Oct 20	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Oct 19	1500Z	Oct 20	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Illinois QSO Party	Oct 20	1700Z	Oct 21	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL School Club Roundup	Oct 21	1300Z	Oct 25	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB</b>	Oct 26	0000Z	Oct 27	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Ukrainian DX Contest	Nov 2	1200Z	Nov 3	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW</b>	Nov 2	2100Z	Nov 4	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	Nov 9	0000Z	Nov 10	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	Nov 9	0001Z	Nov 10	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
JIDX Phone Contest	Nov 9	0700Z	Nov 10	1300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	Nov 9	1200Z	Nov 10	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American SSB Sprint Contest	Nov 10	0000Z	Nov 10	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
LZ DX Contest	Nov 16	1200Z	Nov 17	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB</b>	Nov 16	2100Z	Nov 18	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW</b>	Nov 23	0000Z	Nov 24	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	Dec 6	2200Z	Dec 8	1600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL 10-Meter Contest</b>	Dec 14	0000Z	Dec 15	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]